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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006 and 62/205 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

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Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Concerned by the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, including employment generation and decent work,

Expressing concern that poverty is more widespread than previously estimated and that it will increase owing to the global crises in finance, food and energy and jeopardize the achievement of the internationally agreed developing goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Also expressing concern that the number of people living in poverty in the world is now significantly higher than previously estimated and that this situation may deteriorate further and, inter alia, jeopardize the development gains made by developing countries and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, owing to the interrelated and mutually reinforcing financial, food and energy crises, as well as climate change, and in this regard emphasizing the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);[5]

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[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[5] A/63/190.

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Decides* that the overall action theme for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) shall be "Renewing commitment to eradicate poverty: the need for greater international cooperation and solidarity";

4. *Also decides* to have a sub-theme or cluster of themes biennially, aimed at focusing the Second Decade on specific activities for poverty eradication, and in this regard decides to adopt "Full employment and decent work for all" as the theme for the biennium 2009-2010;

5. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

6. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

9. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[6] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for All programmes as tools to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education by 2015;

10. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to move expeditiously to put in place new instruments and to expand and strengthen existing instruments to support developing countries in order to prevent, and deal with the existing, crises,

[6] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal*, 26-28 April 2000 (Paris, 2000).

including the food crisis, and urges that this stepped-up assistance should be additional to official development assistance;

12. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

13. *Also recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to implement the goals of the Second Decade through adequate, predictable financial resources and technology transfer;

15. *Expresses deep concern* at the declining trend in the level of official development assistance since 2006, notes that if current trends persist, it will seriously hamper the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty, and in this regard, reiterates the significance of increased financing for development, including the need to meet the long-standing target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.2 per cent of gross national product to the least developed countries by 2010;

16. *Calls upon* the agencies of the United Nations system to mainstream poverty eradication into their activities and to report annually on the actions taken in support of the overall theme of the Second Decade, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint a focal point for inter-agency coordination in this regard;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a detailed plan of action on the implementation of the goals of the Second Decade, in close consultation with Member States;

18. *Recognizes* the need to give its highest priority to the consideration of the item on poverty eradication on its agenda, and in that regard, as a contribution to the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), decides to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, devoted to the issue of poverty eradication, during its sixty-fifth session;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)".